

## TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 12, 2014 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:00 p.m. and the Chairperson read the recording disclaimer.

**Present:** Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Badwey, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebury and Pattie Pacella.

**Absent:** Dick Douglass

### AGENDA:

**Review/approve minutes:** May 29, 2014

Bernie Roderick made a motion to approve the May 29 minutes and was seconded by Mark Badwey.

Rich Griffiths expressed that he was reviewing the "Table of Contents" of the Town Charter (not just the Town Charters as stated in the minutes. With that correction, the motion passed unanimously.

### Opening Public Comment:

None.

### Review/Discuss Charter Review Project:

Rich Griffiths explained he reviewed a number of different Towns. Groton, Newton, Plymouth, Seekonk, and he reviewed different Table of Contents from their charters, and started a spreadsheet of commonalities. He said that Plymouth was more representative to our town than the rest.

Mr. Griffiths explained there were a few differences between an open Town Meeting and an elected (Representative) Town Meeting. His focus was on representative Town Meetings.

Phil Washko suggested starting with Plymouth. He explained are number 1 goal should be to draft a Table of Contents for a Charter.

Plymouth redid their Charter in 2012 with a significant revision; Seekonk in 2010.

**ACTION #1:** Rich Griffiths to go through and write differences of missing items on a 2<sup>nd</sup> column to show variations. (ex: Moderator under Executive Branch vs. Legislative Branch (Plymouth))

Bernie Roderick asked if there was any indication of problems adopting a Charter at the Town Meeting, and should we avoid anything to get it voted in.

**ACTION #2:** Phil Washko to research Towns with failed Charter votes (on-going project). One town, Groton was voted down.

**ACTION #3:** Phil Washko to send out link to all about looking up information.

**ACTION #4:** Bernie Roderick is going to look at list of last 15 Towns that successfully passed Charter or Charter Revision.

Phil Washko reviewed the upcoming process:

1. Complete Table of Contents with review of other charters.
2. Review radar list to add to Charter list.
3. Review current by-laws and legislation
4. Identify potential review for change.

Then we could discuss breaking up into subcommittees for further research.

**Review Interviews:**

Mark Badwey spoke to past Select board members to invite them to a meeting on 6/26 at 6:30 p.m.; all seemed enthusiastic. John Roderigues has a finance committee, but would be able to attend afterward. John Haaland would be just arriving back on business, but wants Phil Washko to contact him for future interview.

Present would be: Mike Sylvia, Brian Wood, Brian Bowcock, Ruth Galary, Ron Manzone

**ACTION #5:** Pattie will talk to Patrick Mullen about coming in.

Phil Washko reviewed questions that people emailed in and asked if any other questions were to be sent in.

**ACTION #6:** Mark Badwey will research 3-5 Selectman in other Towns for effectiveness.

Small discussion on open Town Meeting vs. our current method, elected.

**Discuss/Review Public Survey Analysis:**

Phil Washko has had no time to continue, however he will have it done for our next meeting. He is going to remove the 'n/a' column to only rate those that answered.

With the comments, once published everyone suggested a disclaimer be printed that says the opinions don't affect TGSC.

**Review outstanding DOR report recommendations:**

Should we add a list, some say we already did this last meeting with the radar list.

Siobhan Henebury will do a list of radar vs. what would be on Charter.

Phil Washko had a conversation with Bob Espindola (per Mr. Espindola's request) that the Selectman have an interested in moving forward with the IT need in Town. Mr. Washko explained that an assessment is needed and asked us if we should finish taking up the IT article for an assessment. Everyone agreed.

**ACTION #7:** Bernie Roderick will get some information from the School Department who they used for their assessment and how they went about it. He will also look into procurement laws.

**ACTION #8:** Everyone to send any more questions for the Select board review.

Mark Badwey suggested putting the meeting in the Neighborhood News and other papers.

Siobhan Henebury suggested a write up for passing out at the Fairhaven Homecoming, she volunteered to write something up.

A brief discussion about hosting a public forum on July 10<sup>th</sup>, he will draft the slides for that meeting. Pattie Pacella is going to be out of town.

**Discussion Town Interviews:**

BOH & Finance Committee should be joint meetings.

Dave Darmofal & Shellfish Warden, Tim Cox will be done by Phil Washko, Mark Badwey, and Rich Griffiths.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Bernie Roderick. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A Pacella  
Recording Secretary